

What is claimed is:

1. A latent image carrier capable of forming an electrostatic latent image which corresponds to an image by means of optical writing after which a photosensitive layer has been uniformly charged, comprising:

5           a thin cylindrical body for forming said latent image carrier; and  
          a deformation preventing member disposed in the interior portion of said thin cylindrical body along circumferential and axial directions thereof.

2. A latent image carrier according to claim 1,

10           wherein said deformation preventing member includes a base positioned at a shaft of said latent image carrier and at plural places of the base, and a plurality of leg parts extending from the base along the circumferential direction of said latent image carrier with their distal ends elongated (towards the interior of said latent image carrier) is provided with a bulging portion capable of coming into contact with an inside surface of said latent image carrier.

15           3. A latent image carrier according to any one of claims 1 and 2,

          wherein said deformation preventing member is twisted in the axial direction of said latent image carrier forming successive blade structures from one axial end thereof towards the other axial end thereof.

4. A latent image carrier according to claim 3,

20           wherein said deformation preventing member is formed of an elastic body.

5. A latent image carrier according to claim 1,

          wherein said deformation preventing member is formed of an elastic body, and a diameter of said deformation preventing member is greater than an inner diameter of said latent image carrier upon non-elastic deformation  
25           of the deformation preventing member.

6. A latent image carrier according to claim 1,

wherein said latent image carrier is formed of a rigid body.

7. A latent image carrier according to any one of claims 1 to 5,

wherein rubber is used as said deformation preventing member.

8. An image forming apparatus comprising:

5 a latent image carrier to which image forming process is effected by said image forming apparatus;

a thin cylindrical body for forming said latent image carrier; and

deformation preventing member disposed in the interior portion of said thin cylindrical body along circumferential and axial directions thereof.

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